

TO HEAR CROPSEY FIRST

Grand Jury Begins Inquiry as to Crime's Increase To-day.

BATTLE SEES THE MAYOR

Neither Will Discuss Report That Gaynor Was Invited to Answer Corrigan.

Police Commissioner Cropsey will be the first one to testify before the grand jury charged by Judge O'Sullivan, of the Court of General Sessions, to investigate the stories of maladministration of the Police Department. Assistant District Attorney Frank Ross said yesterday that Commissioner Cropsey, in all fairness to him as an official vitally concerned, will receive an opportunity to-day, when the investigation begins, to make any statement he desires bearing upon the subject.

Mr. Ross will be in charge of the inquiry, assisted by George Gordon Battle, the former Assistant District Attorney, whose special assignment by District Attorney Whitman to divest the affair of any political significance, and by Assistant District Attorney James B. Reynolds.

The entrance of the District Attorney's office into the controversy regarding police affairs in the city, he made it clear, was the natural consequence of the instructions of Judge O'Sullivan directing the grand jury to investigate the charges of Magistrate Corrigan and others attributing an increase in crime in the city to demolition of the police force by inefficient management.

The District Attorney and the judge charging the grand jury are its legal advisers. Messrs. Ross, Reynolds and Battle will supply that body with all the assistance possible in collecting evidence and examining witnesses summoned to throw light upon the subject under inquiry.

Experts in Investigation.

It was pointed out yesterday that the long experience of Mr. Battle in the District Attorney's office, the experience of Mr. Ross, both as a prosecuting officer and as a police commissioner, and the experience of Mr. Reynolds as an investigator will make them a trio that ought to be able to get at the bottom of any irregularities or inefficiency on the part of the officials who will be brought within the grand jury's searchlight.

Although the investigation will not start until to-day, the effect of the announcement that it was about to start has already had its effect in certain quarters which will come under scrutiny before it is completed. One of the most noticeable was the absence of women from the streets in sections of the city heretofore infested by them.

The proprietors of saloons who for many months under Mayor Gaynor's "excessive police" have been keeping open after hours and doing a rushing back room business on Sundays are also becoming wary as to the patrons of their places during the prohibited hours.

George Gordon Battle called on Mayor Gaynor yesterday in the City Hall. It was reported that his visit had to do with the charge of Magistrate Corrigan that Mayor Gaynor, as the city's chief executive, was responsible for existing conditions in the Police Department. It was also reported that Mr. Battle had offered the Mayor an opportunity to go before the grand jury.

When questioned regarding his conference with the Mayor, Mr. Battle refused to discuss it. Asked if he had extended an invitation to him to testify before the grand jury, Mr. Battle replied his refusal.

"Will you deny, Mr. Battle, that the purpose of your call on the Mayor was to invite him to testify before the grand jury?" he was asked.

"I will not discuss it," he replied. "Anything on that matter will have to come from the Mayor."

When Mayor Gaynor was approached, he declined to talk about Mr. Battle's call.

CHILDREN SEE MAN END LIFE

Thrown in Panic When Foreigner Commits Suicide in Park.

A few feet of a class of children, which was being instructed in agriculture in De Witt Clinton Park, a man who is supposed to be John Sessa, shot and killed himself yesterday. Miss Molly R. Conner, the teacher, quelled a panic, marched the children away, and informed the police.

The man was very dead, about thirty years old, and apparently a native of Hungary or Austria. In the station house a card and a bankbook with the name of John Sessa and naturalization papers bearing the same name, dated September 7, 1899, were found. The bankbook showed that he had an account with the banking firm of Knauth, Nachod & Kuhne, of No. 12 William street, for \$1,500.

At the office of Knauth, Nachod & Kuhne, it was said that the firm's books showed no record of the name of John Sessa. It was surmised that some foreign bank might have advised Sessa of the remittance of \$1,500 to him, to be placed to his credit here with Knauth, Nachod & Kuhne, and that the paper found on the body might be that notice, in which the name of the New York banking firm would appear.

BANKER SEEKS NEW TRIAL. Justice Greenbaum heard argument yesterday and reserved decision on an application of counsel for William H. Montgomery, former president of the Hamilton bank, now under sentence for grand larceny, for a certificate of reasonable doubt.

PETER EMMONS WHO WAS

By Paul West

is entry No. 13 in our Prize Story Contest.

It is a ghost story which this daring author uses to break the hoodoo that attaches to the number thirteen. See the next.

PLACE FOR MOSES M. M'KEE

Republican Leader Gets Appointment in Controller's Office.

Moses M. McKee, the Republican leader of the 21st Assembly District, was appointed Deputy Collector of Assessments and Taxes by Controller Frederick yesterday. Beginning on April 1 he will be assigned to the main office. His salary will be \$1,500 a year.

Mr. McKee has been a speaker in the State Excise Department, in charge of the New York City Committee recommended for appointment by the Mayor as collector of assessments, but the Mayor ignored the recommendation.

Other appointments made by the Controller yesterday were the following: A. H. Goldstein, Staten Island; Albert H. Fahey, Staten Island; John B. Goddard and Charles J. Flanagan, Brooklyn; Joseph L. Gitterman, Bronx; and Edward J. Matson, Peter J. Schaeffel, of the Bronx, and E. D. Newell, of Montclair, N. J.

Sunday Magazine of the Sunday Tribune

MENINGITIS FROM NAPLES

Two Cases Detected on the Venera, Which Is Disinfected.

The detection of two cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis yesterday on board the Fabre Line steamer Venera is taken at Quarantine as an indication that the disease may have invaded Naples through the agency of Greek passengers travelling to that port.

When the Tribune furnished Dr. Doty, on March 17, the first detailed information of the epidemic in Greece, the doctor said that he would keep an unusually close watch on all steamships from the Mediterranean, especially from Naples where Greek travellers are prone to embark for New York.

The Venera, on which the two cases were found yesterday, does not call at Greece. Her passengers are taken on at Naples and Marseilles. She carried 1,475 steerage and 25 cabin passengers. The patients were removed to Swinburne Island and for treatment, and after the temperatures of all the steerage passengers were taken, the steamer was permitted to go to her pier in South Brooklyn. The steerage was disinfected.

CLOSE CALL FOR HAMILTON

Aviator's Automobile Crashes Into an Electric Train.

(By Telegraph to the Tribune.)

New Britain, Conn., March 29.—The luck that has carried Charles K. Hamilton, the daring little aviator, through many dangerous situations stayed with him this afternoon when his automobile crashed into an electric train on the Berlin-Middletown branch road, three miles from this city. Hamilton, his wife and mother all had narrow escapes from death.

Hamilton was on his way to his home in New Britain from Hartford when the accident occurred. His mother, Mrs. B. Beaudette, was on the front seat with the aviator, while Mrs. Hamilton was on the rear seat. As Hamilton approached the crossing he slowed down. Not seeing any train approaching he finally speeded up his car to shoot across the tracks. At the same moment the electric train swung around the sharp curve.

Hamilton turned his car sharply and proceeded parallel with the train for a short distance. The car became tightly wedged between the gatekeeper's shanty and the train and the shanty was upset. The train tore off two wheels of the machine and damaged the body of the car considerably. No one in the automobile, however, was injured.

RAID STREET CANDY STANDS

Inspectors' Fear of Injury to Health Not Shared by Boys.

A squad of Health Department inspectors destroyed more than three hundred pounds of candy in the lower section of the city yesterday morning. Commissioner Lederle ordered the raid because of the generally bad condition of candy and confectionery being sold on street stands and by basket vendors. The raid was on Broadway, from Duane street to the Battery and Wall street, Fulton street and the Bowery.

The raid was all unexpected. A brown automobile, conveying the inspectors, appeared suddenly, and the next minute candies and other sweets were dumped into the gutters or thrown into the street and trampled upon. It all happened so quickly that the vendors were unable to make a protest. From stand to stand the inspectors went, leaving in their wake, however, dozens of youngsters who were willing to take a chance with any sort of germs, and who had helped themselves,毫不踌躇地, to all they could gather in. Next, the general roundup was a vendor who has been selling candies for several years, and his wares suffered the same treatment as all the others.

Commissioner Lederle said after the raid that he had determined to remove, as far as possible, this source of danger to the health of the people, particularly the children, who purchase the candy from stands where they are exposed to dust, dirt, mice and other contamination.

The raid on street stands has not proved a remedy as yet enough, and so the Commissioners decided to raid all such stands. It was also the opinion of the Health Department that the action of the department in enacting the law against exposure of rods would be continued, both by means of arrest and where conditions warranted, as was the case yesterday, by prompt condemnation of the exposed food.

COL. R. J. HAIRE NOT GUILTY

Verdict Discredits Testimony of His Associate, Trippett.

Colonel Robert J. Haire was acquitted yesterday in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court, where he had been on trial for fifteen days on an indictment charging attempted subversion of justice. The trial, which was held in an adjourned session, resulted in a hung jury, and the陪审团一致认为证据不足，所以宣判无罪。

Mr. Haire, who had law offices with him, had undertaken to manufacture evidence to secure the acquittal of a pickpocket named John Rodgers, for whom Trippett was counsel. Trippett pleaded guilty to the imputation against him, and for the defense, the judge ruled that he was the innocent party.

Justice Crane upheld the right of the Thompson-Starrett Company to sublet the granite work to firms outside the state and denied that the court had the power to interfere with wages paid outside this state. He said that the question was simply this: "Can a contractor, under the labor law, after engaging with the city for municipal work, to break the contract of the Thompson-Starrett Company with the city for the building of the new municipal building in Manhattan."

Robert Eason, a member of the union through Lawrence J. Shean, made an application a week ago for an injunction to restrain the city from paying the contractors any further sums on the contract on the ground that the company was not living up to the provisions of the labor law.

When the report of Mr. O'Brien is confirmed, the company will be compelled to pay the amount of the bill or to pay the difference between the amount of the bill and the amount of the water used.

Mr. Shean contended that the Maine workmen should get \$1.50 a day or that all the work should be done here at the prevailing wage. Morgan J. O'Brien appeared for the defendants and R. Percy Clifton for the city.

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